



Mail:  
Box 2643  
Station M,  
Calgary, Alberta T2P 3C1 Cda

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### CAWMC OFFICERS

**President,  
Secretary-Treasurer,  
Membership Chairman:**  
**Al Munro**  
E-mail:  
woods5cents@shaw.ca  
Ph: (403) 273-6133

**Vice-President:**  
**Dave Gillespie**

**Past-President,  
Chairman of Board of  
Governors:**  
**Norm Belsten**

**Elected Members of  
Board of Governors:**  
**Bob Brown,  
Russell Brown,  
Ross Kingdon,  
Wayne Gillcash,  
Lou Vesh,  
James Williston**

### President's Message

Summer is almost over. As usual **Marion** and I did some post-convention vacationing in Ontario and then went to our cabin near Edmonton for an additional ten days of holidays. Unfortunately I have no new finds to report but I can always hope for more successes in the near future. I have forwarded the annual minutes and financial statements to our Editor **Judy Blackman** and they are published in this bulletin. I neglected to congratulate **Dave Gillespie**, in my last President's message, for receiving an honorary life membership for his work in developing our hobby. I would also like to thank **Norm Belsten** for his continued efforts to support our hobby.

I received some sad news concerning one of our members, **Bob Lenz** passed away Wed. Aug. 24th (see the tribute enclosed). **Emile Grondin's** wife has advised me that he is in a hospice and is not expected to return home. We have a couple of other members with life-threatening health battles on their hands, so our prayers and get well wishes are hereby sent out to hospitalized **Bruce Raszmann** and **Ken Preece (N&K Coins)**. Our Ontario members may have known **Robert (Bob) J. Porter** (Fellow of ONA, Honourary Life Member of North York Coin Club) who died as a result of a heart attack the week of August 15th. He was a long-standing dedicated member of the North York Coin Club and served as both a director and auctioneer.

If you have queries concerning your membership status you can contact me by mail, at **Al Munro**, Box 2643 Station M, Calgary, Alberta, Canada, T2P 3C1, by phone at 403-273-6133 or by email at wood5cents@shaw.ca. Good collecting to everyone!

Editor's Note: To correct the last issue of *Timber Talk*, where it indicated the featured wood of the month "James Charlton 100th Birthday" was donated 50% by Canada Wide Woods and 50% by **Norm Belsten**, this should have read 50% by C.A.W.M.C. not **Norm**.

### Take Time to Smell the Roses from Dave Gillespie

First, I would like to thank C.A.W.M.C. for the honor bestowed upon me at the annual breakfast meeting.

Secondly, I still have several of the breakfast fund-raising woods with all funds going to the CAWMC. If any member would like one, they are \$ 5.00 each and available through me at 3 Old Oak Lane, Orangeville, Ontario. L9W 4B1.





## Appointed Officers

**Editor:** Judy Blackman  
**E-Mail:**  
 jblackman@rogers.com

**Assistant Editor:**  
 Norm Belsten

**Distribution:**  
 Ross Kingdon

**Fund Raiser:**  
 Lou Vesh & Dave Gillespie

**Auction Co-ordinator and Membership Dues:**  
 Al Munro

**Annual Membership Dues in Canadian Association of Wooden Money Collectors are:**

- **Canadian Residents:**  
\$10, Cdn. Funds
- **Youth (16 years old and under)** \$5 Cdn. Funds
- **U.S. A. Residents:**  
\$10 U.S. Funds
- **International Members Rate (outside Cda. – U.S.A.):** \$20 Cdn. Funds

**Dues paid to:**

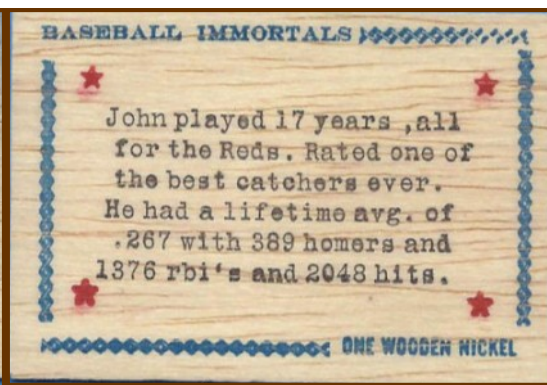
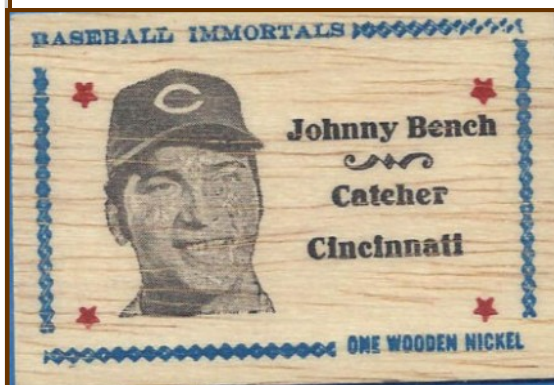
Mr. Al Munro, P.O. Box  
 2643, Station M, Calgary,  
 Alberta, T2P 3C1, Canada



Norm's catalogue lists 3300-055 Glenn Rodger N.B. 200 Years 1984 GR/W GR RD 42mm; 3300-060A M & G Rodger 40th Anniversary 1985 200 qty, R R RD 38mm; and 3300-060B M & G Rodger 40th Anniversary (signed) 1985 25 qty R R RD 38mm; but, the one below which is 2450-024 a 1985 200 Anniversary of Fredericton 'Catch the Spirit' on the obverse and 27th (1958-1985) Continued Success Halifax Coin Club **Mildred & Glenn Rodger**.

In 1983, to mark the 200th anniversary of the Loyalist landing in Fredericton, another monument was erected by the United Empire Loyalists Society in front of the Old Burial Ground on Brunswick Street. The Loyalists who survived that first winter and went on to help build the new City of Fredericton chose this site for a permanent cemetery, and many of them are buried here. Thomas Carleton, who had helped the Loyalists evacuate New York, was appointed Lieutenant-Governor of the new province and arrived at Ste. Anne's Point in January 1785 to establish his offices. By this time the settlers had already drawn street plans for the town they planned to call Osnaburg. Carleton's plans were different. He saw the plains of Ste. Anne's Point, west of the original site, as better suited for a town. With the help of Dugald Campbell of the 54th Regiment he conducted a final survey, and on February 22, 1785, renamed the settlement "Fredericstown", in honour of Prince Frederick, second son of King George III. Because of its safe positioning on the St. John River - about 112 km (70 miles) from where the river empties into the Bay of Fundy - Governor Carleton chose Fredericton as provincial capital on April 25, 1785. On Sept. 25, 1984, at a public ceremony in Fredericton, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II signed a royal warrant granting augmentations to the provincial arms. The additions were all symbolic of New Brunswick and consist of a crest resting on a golden royal helmet over the shield, supporters on either side and a compartment below. They were granted by The Queen, in the words of the royal warrant, "for the greater honour and distinction" of New Brunswick and to mark the 200th anniversary of the establishment of the province in 1784. 1985 The 200th anniversary of the incorporation of the City of Saint John by Royal Charter direct from England.

**Johnny Bench** (Cincinnati Reds Catcher) Baseball Immortal Card







### Past Presidents:

**2003—2005:**  
**Norm Belsten**

**2001—2003:**  
**Earl Salterio\***

**1995—2001:**  
**Lou Vesh**

**1991—1995:**  
**Pat White\***

**1985—1991:**  
**Norm Belsten**

**1983—1985:**  
**Neil Probert**

**1981—1983:**  
**Stanley Clute**

**1979—1981:**  
**Don Robb**

**1977—1979:**  
**Victor Hall\***

**1975—1977:**  
**Garry Braunwarth**

(\*Deceased)

## Windsor Coin Club / R.C.N.A. Convention 2011

Free France Wood of the Month of September 2011



Our September 2011 featured wood was donated by **France Waychison** who also handed out some at the RCNA convention in Windsor and the CAWMC Breakfast at the same event. There were 200 of these 38 mm diameter round maple woods made (in Norm's catalogue as 5950-029o and 5950-029r). You will recall from **France's** past woods, the reverse of her woods has the fleur de lys with the motto *Laissez le bon temps rouler* (English "let the good time roll") which is usually associated with the Acadiens of Louisiana, and reminds France of one of her ancestors who lived the grand derangement, and it is also an expression chosen by France and her husband William (Bill) Waychison to appear on their services of personalized medals issued in the 1980s and 1990s.

Along with the tour of the distillery, RCNA 2011 conventioners were able to visit the Willistead Manor which is a 36 room mansion located on a 15 acre park. The manor was built by Edward Chandler Walker, son of Hiram Walker in 1917. It was designed by famous architect Albert Kahn and is of Tudor-Jacobean architecture reflecting the elegance of another era. Guests were able to enjoy a luncheon at the mansion. The Willistead Manor was selected to be featured on the

2011 RCNA medal which was designed by Windsor Coin Club member John Jaciew. The Windsor Coin Club met regularly in the early years at the "Willistead Manor" so the medal design was meant to represent the longevity and solid foundation in which The Windsor Coin Club was built upon. 2011 marked the 60th anniversary of The Windsor Coin Club, although the Club may not be as old as the Manor, it continues to be updated with new members and modern technologies and the continued support of the existing membership, just like the Manor. Together making the Windsor Coin Club as strong as the Mansion.

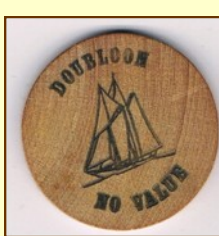


### *Chips from my Woodpile... Dave*

LOOKING BACK TO FIFTEEN YEARS AGO - In the Canadian numismatic world, how long will it be before we have a Five Dollar coin in circulation? In February 1996 the Two Dollar coin or "Toonie" as it became known was introduced. Shortly thereafter, in the May 1996 issue of *Timber Talk* our then President, Lou Vesh published an article about his newly created wooden Loony Twoonie. I know that Lou has moved to smaller living quarters but will he introduce us to a "wooden Fiver" in the not too distant future ???

'Til next time ..... Let the Chips lie where they fall.

The CIBC SHIP wood 5900-017 was issued at the Toronto EX in 1977 and 10,000 round 38mm woods were issued. Norm's catalogue says YEL/BL but this one pictured looks black/black. The first of the yellow woods faded so you can only see it on some of them. This was the same year (1977) the Toronto-Dominion Bank wanted to merge with the Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce.



## ***In Memory of "Xmas Nut" Bob Lenz*** by Judy Blackman

On Wed. Aug. 24th, 2011 approx. 8:40 a.m., we lost an avid numismatist in **Robert (Bob) Lenz** and fellow CAWMC Member, who fought a courageous battle against cancer for the past couple of years. **Bob** had been hospitalized in the *Grand River Health Centre* since August 11th, and was waiting for a bed to open at *Freeport Hospital*. At **Bob's** request, there is no visitation nor a memorial service planned, the family will celebrate **Bob's** life in a private fashion keeping with **Bob's** request. Cremation has taken place, and his ashes most likely will be spread in 2 Canadian locations and 1 U.S. location that have special significance to **Bob**. At the request of both **Bob** and **Edith**, and their families, the announcement of **Bob's** passing was delayed until Sat. Aug. 27th, to allow family to be notified, and to travel from other parts of province as well as Western Canada.

In lieu of flowers, the family has requested donations to the *Canadian Cancer Society* in memory of **Bob**. **Edith** (**Bob's** beloved wife of 28 years) shared an interesting coincidence, **Bob** was born on May 24 (1947), the youngest of a family of 8, and his life ended on the 24th (August). **Bob** would have turned 65 in May 2012. For those who read the profile of **Bob** in the *Ontario Numismatist* in 2010, you know he braved many struggles to overcome challenges that most would have difficulty with, and yet he managed to maintain a pleasant disposition, positive outlook, and his faith.

In the early 1980s **Bob** and **Edith** opened their antique business in Roseville which they operated for over 20 years and expanded to add another location in New Dundee. They were known for their year-round Christmas store. They traveled the world together in hunt of antique Christmas glass-blown ornaments and other collectibles. By 1995 world ornament designers were seeking **Bob** out. **Bob** had regular museum showings of his Christmas collections. He was also called upon to consult as an expert of glass-blown ornaments, love tokens, arrow-heads, and rocks, among other things. Many may not realize that **Bob** was involved in building the original presses for the Royal Canadian Mint in Winnipeg. During 2002-2006 **Bob** and **Edith** sold their business interests with some inventory clearouts taking place in the *St. Jacob's Outlet Mall* (even up until recently). Last year, a large Christmas collection went to an auction house in the U.S. and that was only the tip of the ice-berg.



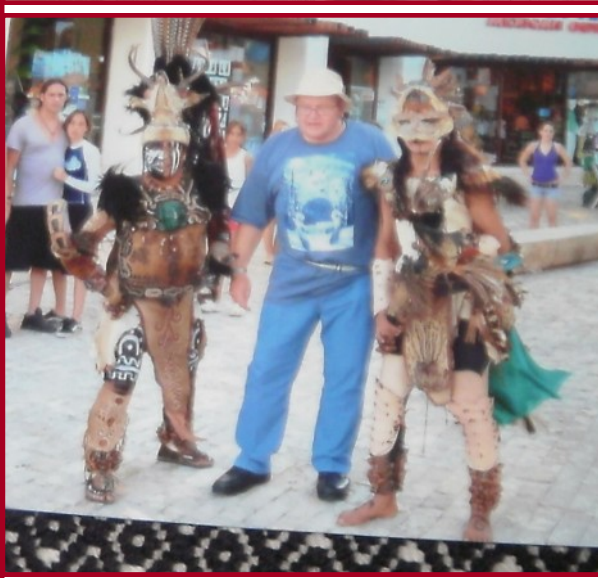




Anybody who has sat near **Bob** at a numismatic club meeting quickly recognized that if an auction item had a high percentage of silver or gold, **Bob** would be bidding.

You also quickly recognized how willingly **Bob** volunteered to help wherever needed, he was always a fixture at club shows supporting the admissions tables, set-up and tear-down, and security. At club meetings, he would lend a hand on setting up and cleaning up, looking after the refreshments, being Santa, and various other roles, including on the Executive. No matter what the numismatic event, **Bob** had his ever present camera handy.

**Bob** also helped secure convention program advertising, and a banquet keynote speaker, plus registration kit donations, and banquet door prizes. Any juniors at local club meetings, mall display days (which **Bob** loved to work), flea markets, and shows, would always receive a surprise from **Bob** to help their collection. **Bob** would remember what you collect and suddenly something you've been hunting for or something you didn't even know existed would show up in your pocket. Before **Bob** became immobile, he never missed visiting 7 local Southern Ontario clubs' monthly meeting and sometimes he attended more, and he certainly didn't miss any conventions or shows nor mall days, and even attended some in the U.S. Many clubs have noticed lower auctions bids and more passes recently since **Bob** has not been around to scoop up several of the items, and surely the visiting dealers at these meetings have noticed too.



**Bob** adored his life with his lovely wife **Edith** and their children, sons **Roy** and **Richard**, daughter **Teresa** and grandchildren

**Chantal**, **Nicole** and **Mathew**. Family and friends were of the highest importance to **Bob**, and it was the friendships that kept him coming out to coin clubs (even when he was so sick and should have stayed home). Because he had made a commitment to help at the 2011 ONA show in May, he went even though he was gravely ill with his body trying to fight an infection he didn't realize he had, it was a complication as a result of his other medical treatment.

**CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS**  
**ANNUAL MEETING MINUTES**  
**WINDSOR, ONT. JULY 16, 2011**

The meeting was called to order at 8:45 a.m. by President **Al Munro**  
**Al** advised the meeting that he has asked **Marion Munro** to act as secretary  
Asked everyone to sign attendance sheet.

There were 25 members and guests present including RCNA President **Dan Gosling**, and Canadian Coin News editor **Brett Evans**. We were honoured to have **Jim Charlton** attend with his nephew **Paul**. **Jim** was just ten days short of his one hundredth birthday. **Al** also advised that **Les Copan** is recovering from his illness, which caused him to spend some time in the hospital while at the convention, but was unable to attend our meeting due to other commitments.

**Al** called everyone to take their seats for breakfast and asked **Dave Gillespie** to say Grace. **Al** called for a moment of silence for any members, including , **George Fraser**, **Wally Krocsko** and **Rita Stankiewicz**, who passed away since last meeting.

**Al** called the business portion of the meeting to order. He asked **Bill English** to run a fifty-fifty draw.

**Al** presented the President's report. He advised of a slight decline in membership although all of the juniors who joined in Calgary renewed and several new members joined during the year.

**Al** advised he had obtained several issues for free distribution including an old Manitoba issue found on "free garbage day" in Winnipeg and donated by **Jim Astwood**, a prominent Manitoba token collector. **Al** also advised he was able to get sufficient copies of the Calgary wooden nickel shown by **Gayle Menard** at last year's convention, for free distribution.

**Al** also gave a sales pitch for the 2012 convention in Calgary, and invited everyone to attend.

**Al** presented a life membership to **Dave Gillespie** for all his efforts on behalf of the hobby including fundraising activities. **Al** also made a special thank you to **Norm Belsten** for his continued efforts in locating, cataloguing and producing wooden nickels.

**Al** switched hats and presented the Treasurer's Report. **Al** moved acceptance of the report. The motion was seconded by **Norm Belsten** and was carried.

**OLD BUSINESS**

**Al** reminded everyone to keep thinking of articles for *Timber Talk*. **Judy Blackman** is doing a great job as editor but can always use additional articles.

**NEW BUSINESS**

**Dave Gillespie** announced that on behalf of the fundraising committee he has made a special wood for the convention. Copies were available for a \$5 donation to CAWMC. He advised any unsold copies will be advertised in *Timber Talk*. **Dave** thanked everyone who participated in fundraising activities. \$100 was raised for CAWMC at this meeting.

**Dan Gosling**, in his role as archivist of the *Royal Canadian Numismatic Association* requested that he be added to the mailing list of *Timber Talk*. **Al** advised he would take care of it.

As indicated in the July President's message **Al** called for a discussion on the size of *Timber Talk*. **Al** advised that approximately one third of the membership do not have computers and receive their publication by snail mail. **Ross** presented figures indicating that increasing the size of the publication from 8 to 12 pages nearly doubles the cost of mailing. Several members indicated that the larger size bulletin caused them to start reading but put it aside and sometimes they do not finish reading it. One U.S. member said that *Timber Talk* appears to be the only viable publication in the wooden nickel fraternity. **Al** asked him to gather information for future discussion but also advised only one US member joined in the last year and he joined at the convention. Further discussion followed and **Al** called for a motion to establish the size of the bulletin. **Dave Gillespie** made a motion that the bulletin be maintained at 8 pages but the editor have discretion to increase the size to 12 pages to include timely Canadian information. Seconded by **Ross Kingdon**. Carried

**Bill English** advised that **Terry O'Brien** was the winner of \$60 in the fifty-fifty draw.

An auction was held and \$59.50 was raised for CAWMC .

**Al** Adjourned the meeting at 9:33 a.m.



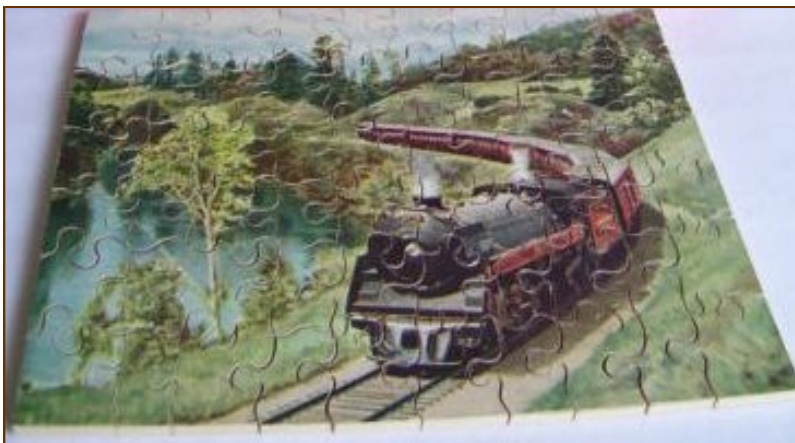
# CANADIAN ASSOCIATION OF WOODEN MONEY COLLECTORS

## TREASURER'S REPORT

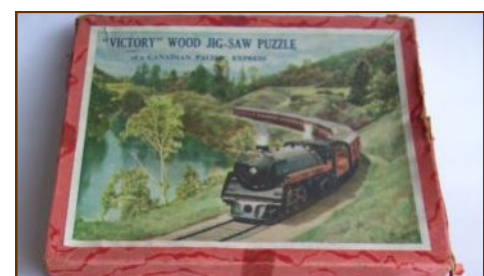
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2010

(WITH COMPARATIVE FIGURES FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2009)

RECEIPTS		2009	2010
Members dues		\$910.00	\$695.00
Donation Auction		\$56.00	\$55.00
Donations:	Decorated woods	\$170.00	\$55.00
	Other	\$35.00	\$82.50
Interest		\$124.32	\$31.25
U. S. Exchange		\$6.31	\$0.00
<b>Total</b>		<b>\$1,301.63</b>	<b>\$918.75</b>
EXPENDITURES		2009	2010
Timber Talk:	Postage	\$387.23	\$404.12
	Printing	\$274.42	\$301.22
Secretary Treasurer		\$424.10	\$236.77
Membership R.C.N.A		\$35.00	\$35.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>1,120.75</b>	<b>\$977.11</b>
<b>NET RECEIPTS (EXPENDITURES)</b>		<b>\$180.88</b>	<b>(58.36)</b>
MEMBERS EQUITY		2009	2010
MEMBERS EQUITY, BEGINNING OF YEAR		\$6,687.19	\$6,868.07
<b>MEMBERS EQUITY, END OF YEAR</b>		<b>\$6,868.07</b>	<b>\$6,809.71</b>
REPRESENTED BY		2009	2010
Cash on hand and in bank		\$7,358.07	\$7,314.71
Less: Prepaid Memberships		\$490.00	\$505.00
<b>TOTAL</b>		<b>\$6,868.07</b>	<b>\$6,809.71</b>



Do you remember Canadian Pacific Express Train vintage wood jigsaw puzzles when you were a kid. This is a 60 piece Victory puzzle of a Canadian Pacific Express Train Series No. T.P.1 complete with box. Looks like the train is coming right out of the puzzle right at you. It's nice the pieces never bend and if you drop one it easy to find.



## Collecting Toronto: Through the Eyes of Larry Becker

From City of Toronto Archives



This Larry Becker Beaver wood is in Norm Belsten's catalogue as 5900-164 1983, 250, BL/BL, RD 38.

**Larry Becker's** collecting was closely connected to both his personal and professional lives, each giving shape and sustenance to the other. At first, his interests - like those of innumerable other young hobbyists - focused on familiar items, like coins and cards. Later, his interests both broadened and deepened: he began to focus his personal collecting on Toronto, and he opened a series of stores devoted to selling coins and collectibles.

Born just before the outbreak of World War II, **Larry Becker**

grew up in central Toronto near Dundas and Ossington, where his father ran a cigar store next to the *Lakeview Lunch*, bought war stamps, and volunteered as an air warden with A. R. P. Around 1948, the family moved north to the Vaughan and Oakwood area where **Larry** and his younger brother **Harold** attended *Rawlinson Public School* and *Vaughan Road Collegiate*. After high school, **Larry** attended *Lakeshore Teachers' College*, married fellow-teacher **Rose Weber** in 1961, and taught primary school in Welland, Ontario, before returning to Toronto in June 1965 to start collecting for profit (his businesses) and posterity (his Toronto collection).

From 1965 to 1996, the growing **Becker** family lived at 25 Lesgay Crescent in North York, where **Becker's** personal collection not only was established, but also came to dominate the domestic environment - covering every horizontal surface available, including chairs, tables, sofas, and floors. "We lost the battle" against clutter, **Rose Becker** has often commented, although **Larry's** collection also transformed their home into a fascinating, mini-museum of Toronto. In December 1996, the **Beckers** moved to a larger place in the Kettleby countryside where **Larry** had planned to retire and work on his collection. Sadly, that plan was never realized since **Larry Becker** died on February 20, 1998.

**Becker's** life as a collector began early. Around the time he became a cub scout in the mid-1940s, young **Larry** began collecting the coins and postcards that became centrepieces of his personal and professional collecting lives. Both his father and grandfather had been small-scale collectors. If there is a gene for collecting, **Larry Becker** inherited it. When given an old cigar tin containing George V pennies, **Becker** began the coin collection that grew into a business. A few years later, when given some postcards stamped 1908, **Larry** became so fascinated by the crowds and pre-TTC streetcars rattling along King Street that he began the postcard collection that became a focus of his private collection.

Even before entering high school, therefore, **Becker** was primed to become a collector. After reading **Edwin C. Guillet's** *Toronto: From Trading Post to Great City* during high school, adolescent **Larry** was hooked on Toronto's history. Thirty years later, **Larry Becker** received a Bicentennial Medal to recognize his collecting and promoting of Toronto's history. On the home front, **Becker** documented his family's history with the same energy and tenacity that he applied to his Toronto collection, as is illustrated by his speech to **Diana** on her wedding day, and the records relating to his father and other family members ... including the dogs. In 1965, **Larry Becker**, with the active assistance of his wife **Rose**, opened the first of three businesses: *North Toronto Coins* at 3234 Yonge Street, which dealt in coins, medals, tokens, and related numismatics. After immersing himself in the world of coin collecting, **Becker** saw the amazing range of other materials available on the market. He soon branched out into postcards and "collectibles," started his personal collection, and opened *North Toronto Collectibles* as a division of *North Toronto Coins*. According to an early ad, *North Toronto Collectibles* specialized in *Canadiana* and stocked a "fascinating, ever changing array" of collectibles, including: militaria, badges, medals, insignia, police, fire, security, documents, books, publications, world coins, paper money, stamps, envelopes, maps, old postcards, old advertising items, transportation (trains, ships, aircraft), tokens, timetables, license plates, photographs, bottles, embossed bottles, magazines, toys - and more, much, much more!

While **Larry** did all the research, purchasing, pricing, and display, **Rose** helped with the accounting, advertising, marketing, and sales - including doing the rounds of coin shows, military shows, toy shows, paper shows, and other collectibles shows. Professional organizations are an important part of being a dealer and contributing to the profession. **Larry**, therefore, was an active member of many groups, including, the *Toronto Postcard Club*, the *Toronto Coin Club*, the *Canadian and American Numismatic Associations*, the *Military Collectors' Club of Canada*, and the *Ephemera Society of Canada*.

**Larry** issued woods 5900-164, 5908-039, and his daughter 058, 059 and 060.



After 20 years in collectibles, **Becker** relocated and renamed his business, opening *Larry Becker's Collectibles Warehouse* at 438 Limestone Crescent in 1985, and at 45 Brisbane around 1995. There, accompanied by his dogs and his enthusiasms, **Larry Becker** continued buying, selling, and discussing collectibles - some of which found their way into his personal Toronto collection. Although **Becker** used the same skills for both his businesses and his private collecting, and did offer some Toronto items for sale, he kept the best Toronto items for his private collection, often replacing lesser items with better items and offering the lesser items for sale. After his death, the business was dispersed, but the all-important Toronto collection was kept intact and given to the people of Toronto.



1946



1988



## LARRY BECKER:



Historian Larry Becker is shown in his North York collectibles warehouse.

## Toronto's King-pin of Collectibles

**L**arry Becker walls out among the thousands of collectibles in his cluttered North York warehouse, hastily relating the various stories behind every moment to catch his eye. For Larry Becker, there are two kinds of people in the world: collectors and non-collectors. "They never understand each other," says Becker, owner of Larry Becker's Collectibles Warehouse on Limestone Crescent in North York, "it's the biggest gap in social history. I like the history part of the business," continues Becker, sweetly returning a smile to his former rising place as the soothing sound of soulful music from a 1957 Eaton's Viking record radio walls through the air. "You get to learn what times were like. It's like reliving different time periods. A collector of memorabilia for more than 20 years, Becker said he

**Started collecting at the age of eight**

lot of interesting people from five to 95 years of age. The former Welland Public School teacher began collecting at the tender age of eight. Then, he would make his father empty his pockets each day after work and sort through the change with one finger, finding a well-worn coin catalogue. His main interest being George V small cents and he accumulated more than 5,000 before eventually selling them. His collecting began in the 1940s, when Becker said "kids were more apt to get involved." Becker allowed him to look through coins to help increase his collection. "It's amazing," he says. "You meet a

August 1988, Antique Magazine 25



## Heart of B.C. is Auction Highlight submitted by Tony Hine

On July 26th, 2011 during the monthly North York Coin Club meeting, David Quinlan was the auctioneer and Vince Chiappino the auction runner. David hammered down this leather trade dollar for \$20 to a lucky bidder. To quote Tony, "Wooden everybody want one?". The obverse reads **MERRITT & DISTRICT CHAMBER OF COMMERCE 1972 LEATHER BUCK**. The reverse reads **HEART OF B.C. RANCLAND MERRITT HUNTING MINING RANCHING FISHING LOGGING**.

[Chamber of Commerce Source: Three major highways intersect at Merritt which means you can go to Vancouver in 3 hours, Kamloops in under an hour and Kelowna is just over an hour's drive. Merritt is officially recognized as the Country Music Capital of Canada and our residents and businesses are very proud of this designation. Enjoy a small city atmosphere with big city amenities. Merritt has 7 parks, 2 area golf courses, aquatic center, mountain bike park, skateboarding park, hockey arena, race car track, tennis complex, - the list goes on and on. Not to mention great restaurants, schools, several health & wellness centres and numerous non-profit community and charitable organizations supported by a healthy and generous business community.

If you enjoy the outdoors, Merritt is a four-season destination. In winter you can snowmobile, ice skate, ice fishing or enjoy cross-country skiing. In summer, we promise "a lake a day as long as you stay" - that's right. The fishing in the Merritt area is a fisherman's dream with anglers from all over the world trying their luck in the 200 or so lakes in and around Merritt. You can also enjoy horseback riding, hiking, mountain bike trails, camping, swimming, etc., during the long sunny days of summer. We have several hotels, motels, guest ranches, RV parks and provincial parks to fit your accommodation needs and budget.

The Senior Citizen's Association of Merritt is part of the Old Age Pensioner's Association of Canada (O.A.P.A.). The Senior Citizen's Association has been in existence since 1972 and currently has approximately 150 members. A number of scheduled activities are held throughout the week at the Senior Citizen's complex. These activities include: arts and crafts, whist and crib, bingo, bridge, line dancing, floor curling, carpet bowling, shut-in lunch, pot luck supper and a games night. The Association donates to local organizations such as Coquihalla Gillis House, NV General Hospital, Merritt Lawn Bowling, Lifeline, the Museum and the Food Bank. Monthly meetings are held the second Friday of each month with the AGM in October.]





**Website:**  
<http://www.nunet.ca/>

**Editor:**  
 Judy Blackman

**E-mail:**  
[jblackman@rogers.com](mailto:jblackman@rogers.com)

**Assistant Editor:**  
 Norm Belsten, LM C45

**E-mail:**  
[nbelsten@sympatico.ca](mailto:nbelsten@sympatico.ca)

**Phone:**  
 (905) 868-9187

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## A Small World Getting Smaller

### *From Our Correspondence—Part 5* by Darryl and James Atchison

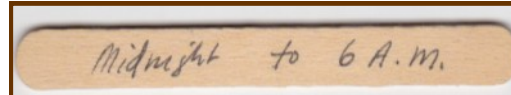
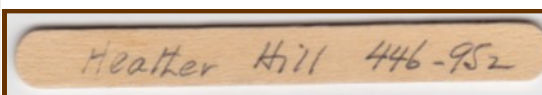
It's a small world and it's getting smaller every day... so they say. In the summer of 2010 I had the pleasure of speaking to a **Mrs. Alene Welch** from Virden, Manitoba and shortly afterwards we received a letter in the post with some of the wooden tokens from that community. I am sure that most of the members of CAWMC have many of the woods from Virden but I am sure that very few of us realized that there was a very special connection between the issuer of these pieces (**Duncan Welch**) and a senior member of our own organization. Quoting **Mrs. Welch's** letter:

"Roland is a small village in Southern Manitoba. At one time **Duncan's** brother had the Shell gas station there. I'm interested to know if the ones you have of **Duncan's** were obtained from **John Curtis**, a hobby coin collector who lived in Toronto many years ago. **John**, now deceased, was my brother-in-law and traded coins with **Duncan** whenever he visited Manitoba.

I hope you will enjoy your collecting hobby as much as **Duncan** did – not only collecting and trading, but also making them. I still have several blank wooden nickels waiting to be stamped that he still had when he died. **Duncan** had a honey business at his parents' farm "Glenlea" in his early years. He attended *River Valley School*, grades 1-8." So you see, it really is a small world.

**John Curtis** was CAWMC Charter Member number C-15. I had the pleasure of knowing **John** very well when I lived in Downsview. We often shared a glass of Canadian Club whiskey in **John's** basement because we not only shared an interest in numismatics but were also members of the *Armed Services*. **John** had served as an Engineer and was long retired before I met him. At that time I was with the Administration Branch of the Army. It is fairly obvious from the letter above that **John** inspired **Duncan** to not only collect but also to issue the wooden tokens from the town of Virden, all of which came from him. It's possible the **Duncans** may have named their farm after the town of Glenlea. Over here in Ireland many people still "name" their homes even to this very day. The practice may have been adopted by **Duncan's** parents when they bought the farm. Glenlea, Manitoba is near Virden in the Red River Valley.

If you check **Norm Belsten's** listing you will see that **John Curtis** has issued many interesting wooden tokens over the years – many of which were patriotic in nature. This was perfectly understandable for those of us who knew him. **John** was a very proud Canadian. **John** once lamented that he could not understand why so many wooden tokens were issued for no apparent purpose. To prove the point he made the "wooden token" shown below at a *North York Coin Club* meeting in the late 1980s and gave it to me. Then he wondered aloud if it was collectible just because it existed. I have kept this popsicle stick all these years and have often wondered the same thing. I don't know the name of **John's** wife although I met her a few times. I know that his family came from Stanstead, Quebec where he was raised and went to school. If recollection serves me correctly, I think he went to *McGill*, but I could be wrong.



This is an interesting use of wooden nickels. The obverse reads "Fairbanks Community Food Bank Service 45-Share" and the reverse says "The bearer of this token will receive a small sack of food from the Food Bank at 725 26th Ave. M-F 1-4 PM".

